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INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 16, 1973

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Dr. Kissinger has reported to me fully on his most recent visit to the People's Republic of China and especially his conversation with you.

Let me first express my appreciation for your gracious gesture of receiving Dr. Kissinger. This was evidence to the world of the major progress we have made in our relations and underscored our joint determination to continue on the path toward full normalization. I am grateful for your kind message to me which was also specified in the announcement of the meeting.

Your frank and wide-ranging discussion with Dr. Kissinger was a very positive elaboration of our own talks a year ago which I recall with great warmth. I wish to reaffirm all the basic principles that Dr. Kissinger expressed to you on my behalf. The integrity of China is a fundamental element in American foreign policy. We believe that the viability and independence of your country is in the U. S. national interest and the interest of world peace. Our international approach will reflect this view.

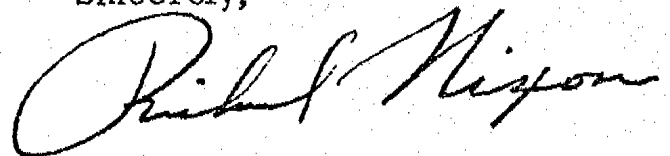
While our two countries will continue to have differences, it is clear from Dr. Kissinger's talks with you and Prime Minister Chou En-lai that we increasingly share common views about the world situation. We take great

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satisfaction in the progress of our dialogue and the specific steps that are now being taken to accelerate the normalization of our relations.

I think we can look back on this recent period with a genuine sense of accomplishment. Our joint task now is to continue advancing on the course we have well established. This will be the firm policy of the United States.

Sincerely,



Chairman Mao Tse-tung
Peking, People's Republic
of China

*Our common dangers and
our common interests have
drawn our two nations
together at this critical
juncture in history.*

*I intend to do everything
I can to see that nothing
drives us apart during
my service as President.*

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 16, 1973

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

You have my gratitude for once again receiving Dr. Kissinger and his party with extreme courtesy, thoughtfulness, and cordiality. In listening to the personal accounts of his visit to the People's Republic of China, I recalled with warm pleasure my own journey there a year ago. Let me also take this occasion to thank you for the exquisite vase that was presented to me.

I have heard and read Dr. Kissinger's detailed accounts of his discussions with Chairman Mao and yourself with great interest and satisfaction. It was clear to me last year during my own talks that, differences notwithstanding, our two governments have parallel views on important aspects of the international situation. These most recent conversations demonstrate that we have continued to make substantial progress. It is inevitable - even useful - that our approaches to world problems will not be identical; each country must adhere to its principles. But it is also evident that we have reached mutual understanding in many areas and that we share many principles as well. The latter, of course, found expression in the Shanghai Communique which was so forcefully reaffirmed in the joint announcement after Dr. Kissinger's trip.

The advancement in our dialogue has been accompanied by concrete progress in our bilateral relations. In my January 3 letter to you I noted the headway that had already been made. With the achievement of a Vietnam

settlement and as a result of Dr. Kissinger's trip, there will now be substantial acceleration in the fields of trade and exchanges. This will serve further to enrich understanding between our peoples and bring tangible benefits to both countries. We are especially pleased that Liaison Offices will be established in our two capitals. This step will not only facilitate our bilateral programs and communication but also holds important symbolic value.

The normalization of relations with the People's Republic of China remains basic to our policy. We will pursue it with as much dedication in my second term as we did in my first. I wish to reaffirm all the undertakings that Dr. Kissinger conveyed to you, and I am writing separately to Chairman Mao in the same vein.

With my best personal wishes.

Sincerely,

Richard Nixon

Chou En-lai
Premier of the State Council
of the People's Republic of China
Peking, People's Republic of China

I am convinced that our new relationship has contributed enormously to the cause of security for our two nations and to peace in the world.

I look forward to working with you over the next four years toward further guaranteeing these objectives.

DECLASS

Authority

EO 12958

By

RT NARA Date 7-5-07

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

March 8, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *K*
SUBJECT: Letters to the Chinese Leaders

Attached for your approval and signature are letters to Chairman Mao (Tab A) and Prime Minister Chou En-lai (Tab B).

These messages thank the Chinese leaders for the reception accorded me and my party, and express your satisfaction at the nature of our conversations. They point out the progress being made, both in our shared perceptions of the world scene and in the current steps being taken to normalize relations. They also reaffirm your commitment to our undertakings with the Chinese, including reference to the integrity of China and your determination to continue on the course we have established.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the letters at Tabs A and B.

approved & elaborated

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE
EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY